

Members

Sen. Kent Adams, Chairperson
Sen. Beverly Gard
Sen. Nancy Dembowski
Sen. Larry Lutz
Rep. Win Moses
Rep. Matt Pierce
Rep. Timothy Neese
Rep. Jeff Thompson



RECYCLING EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Legislative Services Agency
200 West Washington Street, Suite 301
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789
Tel: (317) 233-0696 Fax: (317) 232-2554

LSA Staff:

Karen Firestone, Fiscal Analyst for the Committee
Robert Bond, Attorney for the Committee

Authority: IC 2-5-21-11

MEETING MINUTES¹

Meeting Date: August 13, 2003
Meeting Time: 1 P.M.
Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St.,
Room 233
Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Kent Adams, Chairperson; Sen. Beverly Gard; Sen. Nancy Dembowski; Sen. Larry Lutz; Rep. Win Moses; Rep. Matt Pierce; Rep. Timothy Neese; Rep. Jeff Thompson.

Members Absent: None.

Call to Order

Senator Kent Adams, Chairperson, called the second meeting of the Recycling Evaluation Committee meeting to order at 1:05 PM. He asked members who were not present last meeting to introduce themselves. Sen. Adams then reviewed the charged to the committee previously discussed at the Committee's first meeting and discussed the agenda for today's meeting.

Continuation of State-Funded Recycling Programs

Sen. Adams next asked Mr. Jim Mahern, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Pollution Prevention and Technical Assistance (OPPTA), Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), to give a presentation. Mr. Mahern presented detailed information concerning IDEM's recycling grants program including legislative history of the program, financial information, and a look at the future of problem solid waste (Attachment A).

¹ Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

There was discussion between the Committee and Mr. Mahern about;

- factors contributing to the lack of funds available for these programs,
- whether the goals of recycling should focus on amount or the materials recycled
- the need for legislative guidance in funding priorities

Presentation of Local Solid Waste Management Programs Included in *Issues Relating to Recycling and Solid Waste Management Programs*

The Chairperson asked Ms. Karen Firestone, Fiscal Analyst, LSA, to present an overview of issues related to local solid waste management programs from the LSA report, *Issues Relating to Recycling and Solid Waste Management Programs*. Ms. Firestone presented material concerning cities and towns, the City of Indianapolis and Marion County, and solid waste management districts (SWMD) (Attachment B). The Committee questioned Ms. Firestone concerning the low response rate from SWMDs to her request for cost information and other issues involving the reserves held by districts.

Discussion - Dissolving Multicounty Districts

The Chairperson asked Senator Beverly Gard to discuss Hancock County SWMD's withdrawal from a multicounty solid waste management district. Senator Gard introduced the topic, asking Ms. Firestone to explain the memorandum that provided information about the four solid waste management district separations (Attachment C).

Sen. Gard then called on Mr. John Mesko, Director, Hancock County SWMD, to present information on the Hancock County SWMD's withdrawal from the Three Rivers SWMD and its subsequent integration with the Hancock County Purdue University Cooperative Extension Office (Attachment D). Mr. Mesko indicated that the withdrawal from Three Rivers SWMD had been cumbersome and that the district had completed the withdrawal under the original statute, not the amended statute.

Sen. Gard said that collaborations like the one between the SWMD and the Extension Office was what taxpayers expected because it maximized resources. In response to Sen. Adams questions, Mr. Mesko indicated that he did not know how many other counties had made connections with extension services and that he did not think the collaboration would work in a multicounty district. Representative Timothy Neese asked about Mr. Mesko's position as director of both the Extension Office and the SWMD. Mr. Mesko explained that the SWMD did not have a director at the time it was connected to the Extension Office, but that the previous extension service director was in negotiation for the dual position prior to his retirement. Rep. Neese then asked about the board structure. Mr. Mesko indicated that the Extension Office board was more advisory and the SWMD was more involved in operations, but that they had established a Memorandum of Understanding to protect both boards.

James Echelbarger, Program Assistant/Solid Waste Management District Program Coordinator, Hancock County, indicated that Purdue had a broad set of publications that may be out-of-print, but still available. He also suggested that contacting the University could be helpful to SWMDs and that people on campus may be interested in working on projects with the districts.

General Discussion

The Chairperson called on Lance Hodge, Director, Association of Indiana Solid Waste Management Districts (AISWMD) to testify. Mr. Hodge explained that when the LSA was directed to evaluate the districts, the AISWMD decided to hire an outside expert to audit themselves. Mr. Hodge then introduced Mr. J.W. Spear, Spear Associates, to give a status

report to the Committee.

Mr. Spear presented his evaluation of Indiana's solid waste management districts (Attachment E). He indicated that the AISWMD, as a result of the evaluation, had three recommendations: 1) A stakeholders council including private sector waste haulers and disposers, districts, and the state; 2) Finding an equitable method for funding districts; and 3) Improving IDEM's grants program to empower districts.

Recommendations for Committee Consideration - Sen. Adams requested that if anyone had any specific recommendations for the Committee to consider, they contact Ms. Firestone within the next couple of weeks.

Sen. Adams returned to the general discussion by recognizing Jim Murray, Director, Bartholomew County SWMD. Mr. Murray discussed the history of the Bartholomew County SWMD (Attachment F). He explained how the siting of a wetland replacement on the property of the landfill created opportunities for student education in response to a question from Sen. Gard.

The next person recognized to testify was Mr. Harold Gingerich, President, Northeast Indiana SWMD and President, AISWMD. Mr. Gingerich gave a report on new projects and advancements being made throughout the state's SWMDs. He recognized Steve Christman, Director, Northwest Indiana SWMD, as an example of Indiana's proficiency in solid waste matters.

Sen. Adams next called Ms. Deborah Steinkamp Director, Spencer County SWMD, to testify. Ms. Steinkamp described what a rural district is like and discussed how her SWMD was doing (Attachment G).

Continuing the discussion of rural counties, Ms. Pam Byers, Director, Warren County SWMD, reported on the status of her SWMD (Attachment H).

Mr. Terry Duffy, President, Indiana Recycling Coalition, was recognized to testify. Mr. Duffy indicated that the Coalition has concluded that SWMDs are essential to meeting Indiana's solid waste goals.

Mr. Mark Mehall, Director, St. Joseph County SWMD, submitted written comments for the minutes (Attachment I).

Mr. Jeffery A. Myers, Director, Greene County SWMD, will submit comments in writing.

Next Meeting Date Selection.

Thursday, September 11, 2003 was selected as the next meeting date.

Adjournment.

Sen. Adams adjourned the meeting at 3:07 PM.